

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicant has reviewed and considered the Office Action mailed on October 3, 2007, and the references cited therewith.

Claims 1, 2, 10, 12-16, 18, 19, 23, and 24 are amended and claims 5, 7, 8, and 17 are cancelled. Claims 1-4, 6, 9-16, and 18-25 are now pending in this application.

Applicant respectfully submits that the amendments to claims 1, 2, 10, 12-16, 18, 19, 23, and 24 do not introduce any new subject matter and are intended to cover additional claimable subject matter fully supported by the originally filed specification. Support for the amendments to claims 1, 2, 10, 12-16, 18, 19, 23, and 24 can be found, for example, page 3, lines 26-32; page 4, lines 1-5; page 9, lines 25-31, among other places.

§103 Rejection of the Claims

Claims 1, 2, 9, 12, 13, 23 and 24 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Stephens (U.S. Pat. No. 5,380,046) in view of Smith (U.S. Pat. No. 5,410,827) and Moraw et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 4,324,421).

Claims 3 and 5 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Stephens as modified by Smith and Moraw as applied to claims 1, 2, 9, 12, 13, 23 and 24 above and further in view of Killey (U.S. Pat. No. 5,342,672).

Claims 4, 6-8, 10, 11, 14-16, and 19-21 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Stephens as modified by Smith and Moraw as applied to claims 1, 2, 9, 12, 13, 23 and 24 above and further in view of McConville et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 4,968,063).

Claims 17 and 18 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Stephens as modified by Smith and Moraw et al. as applied to claims 1, 2, 9, 12, 13, 23 and 24 above and further in view of Killey and McConville et al.

Applicant has amended claims 1, 2, 10, 12-16, 18, 19, 23, and 24 to more clearly recite the claimed subject matter. Insofar as the rejection is applicable to claims 1, 2, 10, 12-16, 18, 19, 23, and 24 as amended, Applicant respectfully traverses all the rejected claims as follows.

Applicant respectfully submits that the documents cited in the Office Action do not teach or suggest all the elements recited in independent claims 1, 23 and 24. For example, Applicant is unable find in combination of Stephens, Smith and/or Moraw a transparent data sheet that includes a thermoplastic transparent durable layer, a transparent fragile layer that is more fragile than the thermoplastic transparent durable layer, where the transparent fragile layer includes overt and covert security features, and where the two layers are laminated together and at least one of the overt and covert security features of the transparent fragile layer is detectibly damaged after an attempt to tamper with the transparent data sheet, as recited in claim 1.

Similarly, Applicant is unable find in the combination of Stephens, Smith and/or Moraw a teaching or a suggestion of a process for manufacturing a transparent data sheet that includes providing a thermoplastic transparent durable layer; providing a transparent fragile layer that is more fragile than the thermoplastic transparent durable layer, where the transparent fragile layer includes overt and covert security features, and a printable surface, providing instructions to print on the printable surface of the transparent fragile layer; and assembling the transparent fragile layer and the thermoplastic transparent durable layer into the transparent data sheet, such that upon assembly, the two layers are laminated together, as recited in claim 23. Finally, Applicant is unable find in the combination of Stephens, Smith and/or Moraw a teaching or a suggestion of a process of manufacturing a transparent data sheet that includes printing identification information onto a surface of a first fragile layer that includes overt and covert security features and laminating the printed surface of the first fragile layer to a thermoplastic durable layer, wherein both layers are optically transparent and the first fragile layer is more fragile than the thermoplastic durable layer, as recited in claim 24.

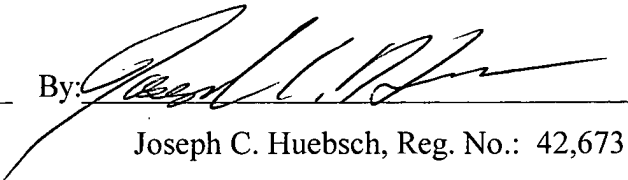
Based on the forgoing, reconsideration and withdrawal of the 103 rejection for independent claims 1, 23 and 24, as well as those claims that depend therefrom is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

Applicant submits that the claims are in condition for allowance and notification to that effect is earnestly requested.

The Examiner is invited to telephone the applicant's below signed attorney or Melissa E. Buss, Esq. at (651) 733-0649 to facilitate prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

4 Feb. 2008 By: 
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